

Yaringa Mariners Club

Cruising Division

Newsletter 2 April 2009

Report of Day Sail on Sunday 29 March

This sail turned out to be one of our most successful day sails in recent times. Seven boats set out from Yaringa, with Geoff Steventon and Patrick on their Pacific 707 only able to commit a few hours to the Cruise in Company. Another boat "Raconteur", a Sonata 7 with Martin and Pam Britten on board, received a phone call while on the water and they had to return to attend to some business shore-side. Our destination, which was chosen at the last minute, was Tooradin. There was a favourable tide and the wind, although light initially, was from the right quarter and eased our passage up the long and winding Tooradin channel. The channel is well marked although the entrance has no starboard mark. There is a west cardinal mark just east of the entrance which is an effective starboard mark. If you are transiting this channel remember that if there are no marks on one side, just keep to the correct side of the marks that are in place.

Mac and Bill were on "Mudlark" a Jedda, Mark and Amanda were on the Boomaroo 22 "Aquarius" and Ian Stewart was on his Cole 23 which is fairly new to Yaringa, having migrated from Hastings. Some of you will know Ian from the days when he sailed as crew with Mac and with Howard. Mike and Mary Duffy were on a Sonata 7 "Aqua Volante" and Tony Woollcombe and Howard were on Tony's Jedda "Sadara".

After a lunch of fish and chips or coffee at Tooradin, we returned to the boats and started motoring down the channel out of Tooradin. The tide was now full and about to start ebbing, and while most skippers cautiously kept to the channel, Tony and Howard decided to sail a rhumb line from near the top of the channel to the entrance. This action was based on information from Ossie Whittley who knows this part of Western Port better than anyone. At full tide, a shallow draft boat can be sailed practically everywhere in the north-east arm of Western Port, provided you keep away from Charing Cross Island and remain a few hundred metres offshore. During Sadara's sail across the mudflats, the depth gauge consistently read over 2m, until we approached the exit to the channel, where the water depth was 1.8m.

As we sailed or motored back to deep water the wind had strengthened to between 10 and 15ks from the SSE, which guaranteed an easy beam reach back to Yaringa. Some images of the boats leaving Yaringa, on the water and at the pier at Tooradin are shown below.



Next Day Sail

The next day sail is scheduled for Sunday 19 April. The high tide is at about 1pm. If the wind is favourable and the weather appropriate we may sail east and look for the entrance to the Boulton Channel, again! More details as the time approaches.

Round French Island sail

A member of the Hartley TS18-21 club has suggested a Round French Island sail on the weekend of May 9th and 10th. The tides are particularly favourable that weekend, as shown in the extract of the BoM tables below.

May		Sun 10	
Time	Ht	Time	Ht
0003	2.50	0059	2.53
0602	0.59	0654	0.51
1317	2.89	1409	3.00
1855	1.17	1948	1.12

If we leave Yaringa early on Saturday, say by 9 am (daylight saving will have ended) we should be able to reach Spit Point about the time of high tide, and arrive at San Remo before dark. Newhaven Yacht Squadron marina would be an alternative overnight destination for those who prefer access to facilities ashore. On Sunday we would need to leave early to sail (or motor) across the north coast of Phillip Island so that we could catch the second half of the incoming tide up North Arm. Otherwise, if the wind was more favourable for an alternative return trip, we might sail back via Spit Point. More planning details will be provided in a couple of weeks. If the Hartley club doesn't proceed with this plan, we may decide to make it a Yaringa weekend away sail.

Clarification

In the last newsletter mention was made of the redefinition of the low tide datum by 0.09 metres, or 90mm. This means that all tidal heights will have 90mm added to them, so expect a few more days when the high tide level exceeds 3.0m. This is not an effect of global warming, nor does it mean there is more water in Western Port. (Only joking!)

Annual General Meeting and Presentation Dinner

The Yaringa Restaurant has been provisionally booked for Saturday July 25th for the Annual General Meeting, dinner and presentation of prizes. It is hoped that the local Federal Member of Parliament for Flinders, Greg Hunt, (who has his electoral office in Hastings) will be able to attend and present the prizes. Please make a note in your diaries if you are planning to attend this event.

Navigation Resources

For those of you who have access to the internet using broadband, Google Maps is a useful resource for planning trips in Western Port, or for just learning about the channels and mudbanks there.

The Google Maps image below, acquired at or near a low tide, shows the channel leading up to the pier at Tooradin. From this you can see that the line of moored boats, or mooring floats (see previous images) should be treated as port marks when approaching the pier.

